

learned yesterday that a second Obama official, Steve Ellis, who was the Deputy Director for the Agency under President Obama, said that this isn't a Republican or Democratic issue; it is about the letter she sent.

He went on to say:

The administration's got some great initiatives and their agenda for public lands is good, but you need the career employees to implement your agenda successfully across the West. Your leader has got to be respected by career employees and across the landscape, in both blue and red states."

We know, sadly, this isn't the case.

I am here today to urge my colleagues to wait to move forward with this nomination of Ms. Stone-Manning and allow debate to continue at the committee level. We had very spirited debate last week.

One important note that I want to make here before wrapping is that this is not just an issue for the West. Ms. Stone-Manning's conduct should cause alarm to not only Senators who represent Bureau of Land Management States but every State with a logging industry.

Stone-Manning's refusal to come forward for 4 years placed the safety of loggers in jeopardy, which is offensive to loggers across our country, from the loggers in Maine, which is the most forested State in the Nation; to loggers in State likes New Hampshire, Georgia; to the forestry, wildlife, and logging groups like Meadow River Hardwood Lumber Company, the Houston Safari Club, the Idaho Logging Council, who withdrew their support or have come out in opposition.

Ms. Stone-Manning's actions matter and should not be accepted by any Senator. Montanans and all Americans deserve to hear directly from her, from Ms. Stone-Manning, about why she obstructed a Federal investigation for 4 years and why she has yet to show any remorse.

I think it is also important for my colleagues across the aisle who admitted they don't know anything about the nominee—we heard that in the committee hearing last week—or haven't spoken with her to have the opportunity to learn more as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, my wife and I received our COVID vaccinations, and we were grateful to the scientists, the doctors, the nurses, and everyone else who made those miracle medicines possible.

It is a relief to see vaccination numbers in this country picking up a little bit in the last few days after declining for months.

It is a relief to hear some of the loudest anti-vax quacks change their tune about the importance of getting vaccinated. While many of these charlatans and blowhards were dreaming up bizarre theories about the vaccines, the virus was not idle. In fact, months of

confusion and quackery have given the virus a chance to mutate and, sadly, to again regain the upper hand.

This mutation, known as the Delta variant, is now in every State in the Union. COVID infections, hospitalizations, and deaths are on the rise again. Almost all—almost all—of those who are hospitalized and facing serious illness and even death are unvaccinated. We know that.

But this is a virus the world has never seen before, and the science is still evolving. What scientists don't know yet is whether people who are vaccinated against COVID can spread the Delta variant even if they experience few symptoms.

While unvaccinated people should wear a mask whenever out in public, the CDC is recommending that vaccinated people who live in high-transmission areas also wear masks in indoor public spaces for now. Further, vaccinated people who have vulnerable individuals in their households—young children or those who are immunocompromised—should wear masks in public places. And finally, the CDC is recommending universal masking for all teachers, staff members, and students in school, regardless of vaccination status.

No one—no one—wants to wear a face mask. We all hoped that those days were all behind us. But I am bringing this mask with me in my pocket to be ready to use it when needed; others should do the same.

If you want to protect yourself, your family, and your community, get the jab. It is free and safe. Until then, wear the mask when you must.

REMEMBERING MIKE ENZI

Mr. President, on another topic, I am saddened today to learn of the death of our former colleague Mike Enzi.

Mike Enzi was my friend. We were elected to the Senate the same year. Nearly a year and a half of pandemic losses has reminded us all that life is fragile and fleeting. Even so, Mike Enzi's sudden passing has left many of us stunned.

It was less than 8 months ago when Mike came up to me on the floor and bid me farewell, as he entered his retirement.

As I said, we were elected to the Senate in the same year. He was a staunch conservative Wyoming Republican. I am a proud Democrat. But over the years, we found grounds for friendship. We disagreed on a lot of issues, but we respected one another, and we trusted one another.

Trust in another's character and motives sometimes seems to be in a dwindling supply in this Chamber, but it is essential for the Senate to function. Mike Enzi of Wyoming knew that. He was willing to reach across the aisle and look for partners.

The most unlikely political alliance I could think of was Mike Enzi cochairing a committee with Senator Ted Kennedy, of all people, on education. Several years ago, he even

reached across the aisle to ask me to join him in a legislative effort. It was one that I was aware of. Byron Dorgan of North Dakota had been one of the early authors of this legislation. It was basically designed to help small businesses and Main Street America have a fighting chance in the age of Amazon.

Over the years, we had seen too many mom-and-pop stores and other small businesses crushed by competition from online retail giants, in part because of an unfair advantage. Unlike brick-and-mortar merchants, online-only retailers didn't have to pay State and local sales taxes. That is unfair, and it created an advantage for the online marketers over the small businesses on Main Street. Communities and States had a harder time paying for schools, police protection, and other vital services as more sales shifted to online and sales tax revenue fell.

As a former mayor and retailer, owning a shoestore, Mike Enzi understood well how the unfair taxing system hurt brick-and-mortar retailers, and it also hurt State and local governments and their taxpayers. He had a solution, called the Marketplace Fairness Act, to apply the same sales tax rules to all retailers—simple, basic fairness. He asked me if I would be his Democratic partner in this effort. I agreed.

Our bill passed the Senate in the year 2013. Later, a Supreme Court decision clarifying that State and local governments have the authority to collect online sales tax made our bill unnecessary. But during the time we worked together, Mike Enzi was a good partner. He practiced what he called the 80 percent tool. He spoke about that tool, as he called it, in his farewell remarks here on the floor of the Senate. He said that we are "all looking to make our communities and country a better place. We might not always agree on what the solutions are, but we can respect each other for working to find one."

He went on to say:

The 80 percent tool is where all of our energy, attention, and talents should be focused. If we just worked on the 20 percent that we don't agree on, and will never agree on, we will only generate headlines about how hard we are working, and nothing actually getting done—just gridlock.

Relying on his 80 percent tool enabled Mike Enzi to work with Ted Kennedy to reauthorize Head Start Programs for preschoolers and tuition assistance programs for college students. He loved his State. He loved the Senate. He loved America.

Mike Enzi and his wife Diana were an amazing partnership, too, for over 50 years—three children and many grandchildren.

Loretta and I send our condolences to Diana. Mike was a wonderful friend and colleague in the U.S. Senate, and he will be missed.

SIMONE BILES

Mr. President, on an unrelated topic, over this past week, the Olympics have been an inspiring display of global unity and friendly competition.

The champions representing America have taken Tokyo by storm. We have won 25 medals, 9 gold medals so far. But earlier today, we received word that one of our great athletes, Simone Biles, was taking a step back from today's competition. In announcing her decision, she cited the need to "focus on my mental health and not jeopardize my health and wellbeing."

There is no doubt that this is one of the hardest decisions Ms. Biles has had to make in her young life, but it is not only what she viewed as the right decision, it was a courageous decision.

She is the most decorated gymnast in America's history. She is an inspiration to millions of aspiring athletes and fans around the globe. And she is by all means a living legend. But she is also a human, a young woman who today had the courage to step forward and share her humanity with the world. She is an inspiration to all of us, on or off the mat, in competition or not in competition.

Over the past 18 months, the pandemic has compelled each of us to appreciate our common humanity. COVID-19 has claimed the lives of too many friends and family members. It has prevented us from coming together with people we cherish, and it has put many of our plans on hold. It has caused and compounded unimaginable stress, and it has exacted an unimaginable toll. Job loss, not enough food on the table, hardship, paying bills, racial injustice, all of these stressors on life have been magnified.

So if we can learn from Simone Biles' example today, it is that everyone has a burden to carry, and the pandemic has made many of these burdens heavier, especially for working families.

I happen to think we have a responsibility—if we can—to help each other carry those burdens. Here in Congress, we—as lawmakers—have the power to help people. For the single mother who lost her job waiting tables because of the pandemic, we have the power to help her pay her utility bills. For the recent graduate struggling to afford student loan payments and health insurance, we have the power to make their life more affordable. For the owner of a coffee shop who is considering laying off employees to stay in business, we have the power to help him keep those employees on the payroll. To me, this is what President Biden's plan to build back better is all about: eliminating the daily stressors that keep people up all night, giving people some breathing room so that they can focus on the things that really matter.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

REMEMBERING MIKE ENZI

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, like all of our colleagues, I was stunned to wake up this morning and find out that our friend and colleague Mike Enzi had been killed in a tragic accident, I think involving a bicycle, and I think we are still reeling from that.

I just want to share a couple thoughts, if I could. I see the Senator from Oklahoma is here to speak after me, and I will be brief.

I think maybe one of the last bills that Mike Enzi introduced, I was privileged to cosponsor with him. It was a postal naming bill. We do those from time to time, as the Presiding Officer knows. There is a post office in Wyoming that under the bill would be named after the late father of Bobbi Barrasso, Senator JOHN BARRASSO's wife. Her dad had served in the military—I believe in World War II and the Korean war, as I recall—with great honor and courage. He was awarded a number of military awards, I think including the Bronze Star, maybe the Purple Heart and others. I was privileged to cosponsor that bill, and it got passed in wrap-up in Congress last December.

One of my first memories of serving in the U.S. Senate also involved Mike Enzi. I was the Presiding Officer sitting right where you are sitting, Mr. Presiding Officer, and Mike Enzi took the floor and began to speak. He talked about something called the 80-20 rule, and I didn't know what he was talking about. I heard several iterations of an 80-20 rule. But I listened to him talk. He talked a bit about how he and Ted Kennedy, one of the most liberal Senators in the Senate, and Mike Enzi, one of the more conservative Members of the Senate, how they managed to work together and get a lot done as senior members of what would become the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, the HELP Committee, here in the Senate.

I didn't know Mike Enzi. I was brand new here, and he had been here a couple of years before that.

When he was finishing up, I asked one of the pages to give him a note. The note said: Dear Senator Enzi, before you leave the floor, would you come and chat with me?

I was sitting right there. It was a slow day, so he finished up, and he came up to chat with me while I was sitting—presiding as Presiding Officer.

I said: Mike, what is the 80-20 rule, and how does it apply here?

He talked about his relationship with Ted Kennedy. He said: Ted Kennedy is one of the most liberal Democrats in the Senate, and I am one of the more conservative Republicans. He said: We get a lot done.

And they really did. It was a very productive committee.

I said: How does the 80-20 rule work?

He said: Ted and I agree on about 80 percent of the issues that come before our committee, and we disagree maybe on another 20 percent. He said: What he and I have agreed to do is just—we focus on the 80 percent where we agree, and we just say the other 20 percent, we will set that aside and take it up another day.

I said: Is that what you do?

He said: Yes.

I said: Is this something you just started doing recently?

He said: No. We have done it for several years.

I said: No kidding?

He said: No kidding.

And, you know, when I think about that, I know we are going through a tough patch right now with infrastructure and trying to figure out how to put together a bipartisan package with water and water infrastructure, roads, highways, bridges, broadband, intercity passenger rail, transit, and it is not easy. It is not easy.

As I heard about Mike's death today, I thought about that spirit, the 80-20 rule. Maybe we can take a little bit of that and use that to get us across the finish line on the legislation that is being worked on. I hope so. It is an important bill, and it is important legislation. A lot of people in this country are counting on us to do that.

On a personal note, you can't think of Mike Enzi without thinking of his wife Diana. They were inseparable. They were here. They were in Wyoming and traveling all over the State together. As popular as he was, she might have been even more popular. I know that is the case in my State with my wife and me.

But I just want to say to her and to the Enzi family just a real thank-you for sharing not just with the people of Wyoming, but the people of this country, a very, very good man—a very good man. We are grateful for that gift that you shared with us and mourn his death, untimely; he died too soon. I feel thrilled and privileged to have served with him.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

NOMINATION OF TRACY STONE-MANNING

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, a few weeks ago, President Biden nominated Tracy Stone-Manning to be the leader of the Bureau of Land Management. Many people in my State don't know much about the Bureau of Land Management. We don't have a lot of areas actually managed in our State by BLM. It has more than 10,000 employees. It manages roughly an eighth of the Nation's land, including 65 million acres of our forests. The land holds 30 percent of our minerals. Whoever leads this entity leads the issue of how we are managing our forests, how we are handling our minerals, how we are handling our energy development, livestock grazing, recreation, and, yes, timber harvesting.

The individual President Biden nominated we now know was an Earth First! ecoterrorist. She actually typed out, as she has admitted in the past, a threatening letter that was sent out to leaders who were doing forestry in Idaho, saying in her letter that she typed out—and she has admitted that she typed out the threatening letter—that "we," as she put it, drove 500 pounds of spikes into the trees in the Idaho forest and then threatened them, to say: If you harvest those trees, it will not be good for you.